 

**Farmer to Farmer East Africa**

**Volunteer Assignment Scope of Work**

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| **Assignment Summary** | |
| SOW Code | TZ111 |
| Country | Tanzania |
| Country Project | Grains |
| Host Organization | Catholic Diocese of Moshi |
| Assignment Title | Avocado Pruning and Seedling grafting |
| Assignment objective | Equip Uru Parish Farm management with pruning and grafting techniques for their avocado orchard and seedling nursery |
| Desired skills | Horticulturist with practical pruning and grafting experience on avocadoes or other tropical fruits trees |
| Assignment dates | Anytime.Will cease to host after April 2018. |

1. **Background**

The Catholic Diocese of Moshi is located in the North of Tanzania on the slopes of Mt. Kilimanjaro. It covers five administrative districts of Moshi Urban, Moshi Rural, Hai, Siha and Rombo. The Diocese has a population of about 1,106,235 (pop. estimates of 2008). Besides evangelization, the Diocese also runs income generating projects to sustain its existence and support the poor communities without any kind of discrimination. The diocese is guided by Gospel values and so envisages a united committed family of God with quality life, spiritually and socially”. Its mission is to build a united and responsible family of God by witnessing and proclaiming the good news through teaching and provision of socio- economic services with integrity, commitment and accountability”.

The diocese is guided by key strategic objectives; improved economic status to the communities achieved through supporting community income generating projects, food security and environmental protection. The other and equally strong strategy is the financial empowerment of the diocese through the establishment of sustainable economic activities so that it can accomplish its mission of evangelization as well as serving as model enterprises for surrounding communities to learn.

Uru farm, the target for this assignment, is one of the income generation projects run by the Diocese of Moshi. The farm lies on the slopes of Mt. Kilimanjaro and covers 150 acres in Uru Parish, about 15km away from the headquarters of the Catholic Diocese of Moshi. The farm is sub-divided into two main enterprises of coffee and avocadoes but has other supportive enterprises like poultry, piggery, goat rearing and dairy unit. The dairy unit plays a significant role in providing manure for fertilizing the orchards and coffee farms. The farm was established in the 1960s with the aim of raising income to support the missionaries and needy people among the followers. The other objective was to serve as a training farm for the surrounding community –serving as a farmer field school. The second objective is very well met given that the farm is surrounded by two primary schools and one secondary school apart from the members of the congregation of the Uru Parish Church.

The total land under Hass avocado production is 10 acres, 5 of which has mature trees (now in the 7th year) and 5 acres under young seedlings. There is a plan to extend the acreage under avocado production, to meet the high demand for export, for which Uru farm has a contract with an export company.

1. **Issue Description**

The fully grown avocado orchard in its seventh year of production has given a good yield since the first harvesting commenced. Visual observation in the orchard show an orchard that is bushy with some branches touching the ground and others intertwining with neighboring trees. The trees are also fairly tall for an orchard. The tree branches are not well opened for good light penetration, which is also indicative of challenges in carrying out necessary husbandry practices like pest and disease control as well as manual harvesting. While some of these challenges should have been addressed earlier, the farm management lacked and still lacks the required skills to effectively manage this.

The Hass variety of avocadoes is very popular in the export market, and Uru farm already has an existing contract with an avocado export company, which it further wants to extend for the farm to supply more avocadoes. A feasibility study conducted at the farm indicated that avocadoes production is a viable enterprise in the long term. For this reason, Uru farm management is in the process of establishing an avocado tree seedling nursery to supply seedlings to the new enterprise. Avocado seedlings are very costly, and comprise a major limiting factor towards the expansion program. The farm already has indigenous avocado varieties that will provide the needed rootstock, and also have a well-established orchard where the scions will be sourced. The Brother in charge of the farm has started planting the rootstock in readiness for the grafting training.

Uru farm has demonstrated that needed avocado pruning and grafting skills are lacking. As the farm management plans to increase the size of the avocado orchard, it is very important that the key staff are equipped with necessary skills to prune the existing orchard for improved future production and management of the orchard, as well as have the requisite skills to effectively manage the new orchards to optimize production through raising their own seedlings as well.

1. **Objectives of the Assignment**

The primary objective of this assignment is to equip Uru Parish Farm management team with improved avocado pruning technologies that can be replicated on other orchards as is relevant. The second objective that is equally important is to equip the management and farm assistants with avocado seedling grafting technologies. Finally, the volunteer will develop avocado grafting and pruning guidelines for Uru farm to guide future trainings and practices. Uru Farm also supports and work with two schools. Students and their tutors will also be targeted for the training.

**Host contribution:**

The host has worked with CRS F2F team in designing the scope of work and will coordinate and ensure a smooth completion of this assignment and implementation of any recommendations from the volunteers. The host has also committed to making a schedule for the volunteer to work with the schools and community that is served by the diocese for a first hand skills share on grafting and pruning best practices. The host will contribute meals to the volunteer.

1. **Anticipated Results from this Assignment**

This assignment is expected to significantly contribute to increasing productivity of the avocado orchard and increases revenues from the farm. Additionally, this assignment will serve as a demonstration farm for smallholder farmers. Most importantly, avocadoes will help preserve and conserve the fragile environment on the hilly sides of Mt. Kilimanjaro and will contribute to F2F objectives of improving natural resource conservation.

1. **Assignment deliverables**

* A robust volunteer report as per CRS F2F volunteer report format
* Avocado grafting and pruning best practices/guidelines

1. **Schedule of Volunteer Activities in Tanzania**

The day to day schedule will be worked out between the F2F staff, the host and volunteer once the volunteer arrive on site. It is anticipated that the volunteer will spend about three weeks with the Uru Farm management.

1. **Desirable Volunteer Skills**

* Tropical fruit tree production expert with practical experience in grafting of avocado or similar seedling as well as orchard management skills, particularly pruning of mature trees, as well as young trees
* Excellent- hands-on training skills to an adult audience in developing countries
* Skills to use translators (since Kiswahili is the main language for Tanzania)
* Experience with agriculture /horticulture in developing countries
* Availability during assignment timing

1. **Accommodation and Other In-Country Logistics**

The volunteer will be accommodated at the Uhuru Hotel on arrival in Moshi and will move on to the farm where he/she will be accommodated for the rest of the assignment. The hotel in Moshi has all necessary amenities of water, electricity and internet but at the farm house the living conditions are rather basic /rustic – with almost no internet connectivity.

1. **Recommended Assignment Preparations**

Would be volunteers for this assignment are recommended to familiarize with the Catholic Diocese of Moshi, [www.moshidiocese.com](http://www.moshidiocese.com); email; [bishopshouse\_moshi@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:bishopshouse_moshi@yahoo.co.uk) contact person Brother John; the Uru farm manager, cell phone; +255 768 651646; CRS Tanzania and a good understanding of the farming situation in Tanzania. The farm manager will be the key contact and host for the volunteer. Brother John is willing and available to engage with the volunteer as soon as she/he is identified to clarify on any issues and especially on what type of equipment would be required for the pruning and grafting activities in order to procure these on time.

1. **Key Contacts**

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